

158.6453 Assessment of achievement of goals -- Development of Commonwealth Accountability Testing System -- Components -- High school and college readiness assessments -- ACT and WorkKeys -- Accommodations for students with disabilities -- Assessment design -- Biennial plan for validation studies -- Local assessment -- School report card. -- Individual student report.

- (1) The Kentucky Board of Education shall be responsible for creating and implementing a statewide assessment program to be known as the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System to ensure school accountability for student achievement of the goals set forth in KRS 158.645 and 158.6451. The board shall seek the advice of the Office of Education Accountability; the School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; and the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability in the development of the program. The statewide assessment program shall not include measurement of a student's ability to become a self-sufficient individual or to become a responsible member of a family, work group, or community.
- (2) The assessment program shall include the following components:
 - (a) A customized or commercially available norm-referenced test that measures, to the extent possible, the core content for assessment. The test shall provide valid and reliable results for individual students;
 - (b) Open-response or multiple-choice items, or both, to assess student skills in reading, mathematics, science, social studies, the arts, the humanities, and practical living and vocational studies; and an on-demand assessment of student writing. These assessments shall measure, to the extent possible, the core content for assessment;
 - (c) Writing portfolios consisting of samples of student work. After receiving the advice of the Writing Advisory Committee, the Kentucky Board of Education shall, by September 1 following April 14, 1998, file a notice of intent to promulgate an administrative regulation which reduces the teacher and student time involved in preparing a writing portfolio. Time reduction strategies included in the administrative regulation may include, but are not limited to, limiting the time spent on a single portfolio entry, limiting the number of revisions, or collecting entries at different grade levels;
 - (d) Performance assessment events for schools that have students enrolled in performing arts organizations sponsoring sanctioned events with an established protocol for adjudication; and
 - (e) A technically sound longitudinal comparison of the assessment results for the same students.
- (3) The provisions of subsection (2) of this section shall apply to elementary schools, and shall also apply to middle and high schools, except as provided in subsections (4) to (8) of this section.
- (4) No later than the 2007-2008 school year, and each year thereafter, the following provisions shall apply to the assessment program for middle and high schools:
 - (a) The assessment program shall include:

1. A high school readiness examination to assess English, reading, mathematics, and science in grade eight (8);
 2. A college readiness examination to assess English, reading, mathematics, and science in grade ten (10);
 3. The ACT college admissions and placement examination to assess English, reading, mathematics, and science, to be taken by all students in grade eleven (11); and
 4. Any other component necessary to comply with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. sec. 6301 et seq., as determined by the United States Department of Education;
- (b)
1. A student whose scores on the high school readiness examination administered in grade eight (8) indicate a high degree of readiness for high school shall be counseled to enroll in accelerated courses; and
 2. A student whose scores on the college readiness examination administered in grade ten (10) or the ACT college admissions and placement examination administered in grade eleven (11) indicate a high degree of readiness for college shall be counseled to enroll in accelerated courses, with an emphasis on Advanced Placement classes;
- (c) The cost of the initial ACT examination administered to students in grade eleven (11) shall be paid for by the Kentucky Department of Education. The costs of additional ACT examinations shall be the responsibility of the student; and
- (d) The components of the middle and high school assessment program set forth in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall be administered in lieu of a customized or commercially available norm-referenced test under subsection (2)(a) of this section.
- (5) No later than the 2007-2008 school year, and each year thereafter, students in grades ten (10), eleven (11), and twelve (12) may take the WorkKeys assessments from ACT, Inc. in reading for information, locating information, and applied mathematics.
- (a) The costs of the initial WorkKeys assessments shall be paid by the Kentucky Department of Education. The cost of additional WorkKeys assessments shall be the responsibility of the student.
- (b) A student whose scores on the WorkKeys assessments indicate that additional assistance is required in reading for information, locating information, or applied mathematics shall have intervention strategies for accelerated learning incorporated into his or her learning plan.
- (c) A student meeting the WorkKeys threshold established by the Department of Workforce Investment shall be issued the appropriate Kentucky employability certificate.
- (6) (a) The Kentucky Department of Education shall conduct periodic studies comparing the standards in reading, mathematics, and science for middle and high schools within the Kentucky core content for assessment and the

concepts and content measured by the ACT and the high school and college readiness examinations under subsection (4)(a) of this section.

- (b) If the department determines that reading, mathematics, and science assessments required under subsection (4)(a) of this section are shown to provide direct measures of content standards and concepts identified in the Kentucky core content for assessment, the Kentucky Board of Education shall seek the advice of the Office of Education Accountability, the School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council, and the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability regarding reducing the number of questions on the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System.
 - (c) The Kentucky Department of Education shall continue to include open-response or multiple-choice items, or both, that assess student knowledge and skills in reading, mathematics, and science to the degree necessary for adequate coverage of the elements of the Kentucky core content for assessment not covered by the examinations.
- (7) Accommodations provided by ACT, Inc. to a student with a disability taking the assessments under subsection (4)(a)3. of this section shall consist of:
- (a) Accommodations provided in a manner allowed by ACT, Inc. when results in test scores are reportable to a postsecondary institution for admissions and placement purposes, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this subsection; or
 - (b) Accommodations provided in a manner allowed by a student's individualized education program as defined in KRS 158.281 for a student whose disability precludes valid assessment of his or her academic abilities using the accommodations provided under paragraph (a) of this subsection when the student's scores are not reportable to a postsecondary institution for admissions and placement purposes.
- (8) The assessments under subsections (4) and (5) of this section shall be known as the "Kentucky Work and College Readiness Examination" or "Readiness Examination."
- (9) Kentucky teachers shall have a significant role in the design of the assessments. The assessments shall be designed to:
- (a) Measure grade appropriate core academic content, basic skills, and higher-order thinking skills and their application. The assessment shall measure the core content for assessment used by the Department of Education during the 1997-98 school year. Any revisions to the core content for assessment shall be developed through a public process involving parents; educators at the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education levels; professional education advocacy groups and organizations; and business and civic leaders and shall be distributed to all public schools;
 - (b) Provide valid and reliable scores for schools. If scores are reported for students individually, they shall be valid and reliable; and
 - (c) Minimize the time spent by teachers and students on assessment.

- (10) Results from the state assessment under this section shall be reported to the school districts and schools no later than one hundred fifty (150) days following the first day the assessment can be administered.
- (11) The Department of Education shall gather information to establish the validity of the assessment and accountability program. It shall develop a biennial plan for validation studies that shall include but not be limited to the consistency of student results across multiple measures, the congruence of school scores with documented improvements in instructional practice and the school learning environment, and the potential for all scores to yield fair, consistent, and accurate student performance level and school accountability decisions. Validation activities shall take place in a timely manner and shall include a review of the accuracy of scores assigned to students and schools, as well as of the testing materials. The plan shall be submitted to the Commission by July 1 of the first year of each biennium. A summary of the findings shall be submitted to the Legislative Research Commission by September 1 of the second year of the biennium.
- (12) In addition to statewide testing for the purpose of determining school success, the board shall have the responsibility of assisting local school districts and schools in developing and using continuous assessment strategies needed to assure student progress. The continuous assessment shall provide diagnostic information to improve instruction to meet the needs of individual students.
- (13) The Kentucky Board of Education, after the Department of Education has received advice from the Office of Education Accountability; the School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council; and the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability, shall promulgate an administrative regulation under KRS Chapter 13A to establish the components of a reporting structure for assessments administered under this section. The reporting structure shall include the following components:
 - (a) A school report card that clearly communicates with parents and the public about school performance. The school report card shall be sent to the parents of the students of the districts, and a summary of the results for the district shall be published in the newspaper with the largest circulation in the county. It shall include but not be limited to the following components reported by race, gender, and disability when appropriate:
 - 1. Student academic achievement, including the results from each of the assessments administered under this section;
 - 2. Nonacademic achievement, including the school's attendance, retention, dropout rates, and student transition to adult life; and
 - 3. School learning environment, including measures of parental involvement;
 - (b) An individual student report to parents for each fifth-grade student summarizing the student's readiness in reading and mathematics based on the student's fourth-grade state assessment results. The school's fifth-grade staff shall develop a plan for accelerated learning for any student with identified deficiencies;

- (c) An individual report for each student who takes a high school or college readiness examination administered under subsection (4)(a) of this section that:
1. Provides the student's test scores;
 2. Provides a judgment regarding whether or not a student has met or failed to meet the expectations for each standard assessed; and
 3. Is designed to assist students, parents, and teachers to identify, assess, and remedy academic deficiencies prior to high school graduation; and
- (d) A student's scores on the ACT examination or WorkKeys assessments administered under subsections (4)(a) and (5) of this section and the ACT examination under KRS 158.6459(5) shall be recorded on his or her official high school transcript.

Effective: July 12, 2006

History: Amended 2006 Ky. Acts ch. 227, sec. 1, effective July 12, 2006. -- Amended 2002 Ky. Acts ch. 213, sec. 1, effective July 15, 2002. -- Amended 1998 Ky. Acts ch. 598, sec. 11, effective April 14, 1998. -- Amended 1996 Ky. Acts ch. 362, sec. 6, effective July 15, 1996. -- Amended 1994 Ky. Acts ch. 256, sec. 3, effective July 15, 1994; and ch. 408, sec. 2, effective July 15, 1994. -- Created 1990 Ky. Acts ch. 476, Pt. I, sec. 4, effective July 13, 1990.

Legislative Research Commission Note (7/12/2006). 2006 Ky. Acts ch. 211, sec. 171, instructs the Reviser of Statutes to correct statutory references to agencies and officers whose names have been changed in the Act, as it confirms the abolition of the Cabinet for Workforce Development and establishment of the Education Cabinet. Such a correction has been made in this section.

2006-2008 Budget Reference. See State/Executive Branch Budget, 2006 Ky. Acts ch. 252, Pt. I, D.3.(9), at 1170; and State/Executive Branch Budget Memorandum, 2006 Ky. Acts ch. 257, at 2464 (Final Budget Memorandum, at 786).